



GREAT IS THY
faithfulness

First Congregational United Church of Christ

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
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Sunday, October 18, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026
9:00 A.M.
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ryan D. Travis, Pastor

PRELUDE

"Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above"

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Almighty and everlasting God, you have made yourself known to your people throughout the generations. You called Abraham, delivered Israel from bondage, sustained your people through the wilderness, and fulfilled your promises in Jesus Christ, our Lord. As we gather in your presence, open our minds to your truth, strengthen our hearts in faith, and give us the wisdom to distinguish between honest questions and foolish pride. May your Holy Spirit guide us into a deeper understanding of the faith we have received, that we may serve you with sincerity and faithfulness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

INVOCATION

Liturgist

All: God of deliverance, you saved the people of Israel and chose Joshua to lead your people to the Promised Land. Choose us, and equip us to live with faith and peace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Faith of Our Fathers"

#530

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***CONFESSION**

Liturgist: Let us call to mind those ways we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. *(Silence is kept to reflect on our sins.)*

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always treasured the faith entrusted to us. At times, we have accepted what we were taught without seeking to understand it. At other times, we have allowed pride to convince us that our own understanding is greater than the wisdom of those who have gone before us. We have neglected to teach the next generation the mighty works of your salvation. We have sometimes confused doubt with wisdom, novelty with truth, and independence with faithfulness. Forgive us when we have failed to seek you with humble hearts. Deliver us from arrogance and indifference, and restore in us a desire to know your Word, trust your promises, and walk in your ways. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Pastor: Hear the good news! Our faithfulness may falter, but God's faithfulness never fails. The Lord who delivered Israel from bondage has delivered us from sin and death through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For his sake, and by his grace, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#734

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, Amen.***

MUSIC MINISTRY

"The Family Prayer Song"

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mindy Bunselmeyer

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*"Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path."* Psalm 119:105

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-15

Liturgist

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Liturgist: A reading from the book of Joshua in the 24th chapter.

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac, ⁴ and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. ⁵ Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst, and afterward I brought you out. ⁶ When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. ⁷ When they cried out to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them, and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterward you lived in the wilderness a long time. ⁸ Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. ⁹ Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, ¹⁰ but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you, so I rescued you out of his hand. ¹¹ When you went over the

Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, as well as the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I handed them over to you. ¹² I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. ¹³ I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant. ¹⁴ “Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Deconstruction or Destruction?”

Pastor Ryan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for persistence...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven.

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Pastor: Please rise and join me in confessing what Christians have believed throughout history in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#72(v. 1)

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***Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be***

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Alex Miller

Alex Miller is a professor at Millikin University and the founder and executive director of Shakespeare Corrected which stages theatrical productions of Shakespearean plays featuring correctional facility inmates.



OFFERTORY

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

Stuart Townend arr. Larry Shackley Copyright © 1995 and this arr. Copyright © 2017

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***DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundredth

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist

Liturgist: Gracious God, everything we possess comes from your generous hand. As we present these gifts and offerings, we remember the countless blessings you have bestowed upon us and upon those who came before us. Receive these gifts as expressions of our gratitude and commitment. Use them to proclaim your Gospel, strengthen your Church, and pass the treasure of faith to generations yet unborn. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"How Firm a Foundation"

#411

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***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May the LORD bless you and keep you. May the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious. May the LORD look upon you with favor and grant you peace. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*O God of love, help me to be more loving.
God of forgiveness, help me to forgive.
God of all grace, help me to be more gracious.
God of all gifts, help me more freely give.
O God of truth, help me to work for justice.
O God of mercy, help me to be kind.
O God of peace and goodness, help me serve you,
with all my heart and strength and mind.*

"Benediction" Composed by Laurie Matheson. Used by permission.

POSTLUDE

"Trio on 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'"

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October 18, 2026

From Our Prayer Chain

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Joan Wolfram, Katie Elvidge, Larry Huckile, Martha Crookshank,
Clint Whitrock, Robin Reynolds, Helen Johnson, Steve Martin,
Kelly Gonzalez, Dean Lorbach, Robert Bean, Norma Morrison,
Tom Irwin, Margaret, Diana Kitchell, Jennifer K, Brad Johnson,
Olivia Wernecke Dees, Becky Corbin, Nancy Leoucis,
Marilee Gordon, Letsa, Randy Habbe, Eric Wolfram,
Don S, Mary Stewart, Murray Elliott, John & Lois Pennock,
Richard Laswell, Malinda Callaway, Ellen Heavner, Tom Cooley,
Matt, Glenn Wolfram, Jerrold Fallstrom, Laura Fankhauser,
Pat Woodcock, Erika Kelley, Meg Phillips, Shelly Long, Michelle,
Mathew Clary, Gary Heymen, Lexi Boyer, Norma Lingenfelter,
Erica Moster, David Marshal, Jason Mumm, Sheila S,
Ty Ditty, Kim Leon, Band Family, Aaron Heartt, Carl Erbsen,
Michelle Unruh, Jodie Trembe, Kay Penk-Burrus, Heather,
Quinton Lefler, Mike Travis, August Scherer, Noah Gallion,
Barbara Wence, Sam Miller, Sue, Madeline Mitchell,
Rhett Ruecker, PJ Patterson, Lucas, Jessica, Maddy, Marcus' sister,
Tom and wife, Judy Schwartz, Julie Fallstrom, Michaela Council,
Betty Henry, Sally, Martha Foster, Johnny Ewing, Terry Alden,
Larry Elvidge, Rachel, Gary Ochs, Carter & Riley Anderson.

WITH DEEPEST ♥
Sympathy

Marion Simpson Rorick

Connie Booth

Tim Coy

Emily Perry

Mike Longstreet

Rodney Barbour

